"One Step" [Living On the Edge of Eternity]

1 Samuel 20:1-3 (text v. 3)

This morning I want to preach on "Living on the Edge of Eternity." Death has been on my mind lately. It has been in the "news" almost every day.

There have been a number of sad, sudden deaths in the news recently.

L home this week left one dead... My friend J A - was killed in a collision last week... Two weeks ago were killed in an avalanche on Stevens Pass... Three weeks ago 41 in the midwest... Last month State was shot and killed here in Kitsap County... Popular singer H drowned in her bathtub at 49 years old in February—a causality of chronic cocaine use.

These incidents remind us (v. 3). David prayed in Psalms 39:4, "LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am."

David knew he could die at any moment. He felt he was teetering on the edge of a cliff. He knew "there is but a step between me and death."

- It is a SHORT / SWIFT step (text; Job 14:1—Man that is born of a woman is of few days...). Job 8:9— "...our days upon earth are a shadow."— Declining... Dark (uncertain)... passing away... unsubstantial... nonpermanent. "Shadow of death"
 - A. Like a weaver's shuttle (Job 7:6— "My days are *swifter* than a weaver's shuttle...").
 - B. Like wind or breeze (Job 7:7— "O remember that my life is wind"). Psalm 78:39— For he remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.
 - C. Like a fast runner (Job 9:25— "Now my days are *swifter* than a post: they flee away..."). A courier, some of whom are said to go 150 miles in less than 24 hours (Barnes' Notes).
 - D. Like a fast ship or eagle in flight (Job 9:26— "They are passed away as the *swift* ships: as the eagle that hasteth to the prey.").

- E. Like a hand's breadth (Ps. 39:5— "...my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee...").
- F. Like a fading flower (Ps. 103:15-16— "As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field... the wind passeth over it, and it is gone...").
- G. Like a vapor (James 4:14— "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.").
- II. It is a SURE step (Rom. 5:12— "...as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so *death passed upon all men*, for that all have sinned:").
 - A. We need to be of this.
 - 1. We shield ourselves from the reality of this. We don't like to think about it so we push it to back into the deepest, darkest recesses of our minds. We do our best to avoid the subject.
 - 2. Young people live like they are indestructible. (Jackass show-Teen jumps off a five story building into a swimming pool. He missed!
 - B. We need to be for this— Every soul needs to be ever prepared to meet their Maker. (Amos 4:12).
 - ▶ Proverbs 27:1—Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.
 - **▶** EAD: L 12:16-20

On September 11, 2001, thousands were killed by Islamic terrorists who attacked our country. Those people went to work on the morning of 9/11 with no idea that before the day was over they would be standing before God.

- III. It is a SUDDEN step. Ecclesiastes 9:12— For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.
 - Death has a way of barging into our lives without warning.

Sometimes an obituary will say the deceased . Both my parents died "suddenly"— My mother died of a brain aneurism when she was 38 and my Dad died of a heart-attack at age 44.

- A. Most people die unprepared! Everyone one of us has "one foot in the grave and the other on a banana peel."
 - Pope Adrian IV was strangled by a fly after threatening to excommunicate Emperor Fredrick I.
 - Roman Emperor, Claudius I, choked to death on a feather.
 - Allan Pinkerton (founder of the National Detective Agency) slipped on the pavement, bit his tongue, and died of gangrene.
 - The Roman Praetor, Fabius, choked on a goat hair from a glass of goat milk he was drinking.
 - Herod speaking to a crowd in a proud moment (Acts 12:21-23).
- B. One never knows when some event will snatch him from earth's environment.

Three business men were scheduled on Northwest Airlines flight #255 out of Metropolitan International Airport in Detroit on August 16, 1987. After arriving at the airport, one of the men suddenly became very sick and decided to forego the trip and return home. The other two men boarded the plane. The plane crashed immediately after take off killing 156 people. The jet went down on Middlebelt Road near the airport, smashing cars underneath with their passengers. "By chance" one of the cars the plane crashed on was the car carrying that third business man who was sick and decided not to take that flight! When your "number is up," it's over.

- **IV.** It is a **SOLEMN step** (Heb. 9:27— "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:").
 - A. For the Christian, it is a step to the Judgment Seat of Christ.

	B. For the lost, it is a step towards the Great White Throne J ment.					
⇒ F V .	C G it will be a SWEET step. (Ps. 116:15— "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.")					
	A. A ste	p into the	(G !		
	B. A ste	p into	G !			
	C. A ste	p into		!!!		
eterr	A I : According to the CIA World Factbook, 155,000 people die veryday. That is 6,458 per hour; 107 per minute. 107 people go into ternity to meet God every minute of every day! If the Lord tarries, you not I will be one of those 107 people. The clock of life is wound but once And no man has the power To tell just when the hands will stop, At late or early hour.					
	To lose one's wealth is sad indeed. To lose one's health is more. To lose one's soul is such a loss That no man can restore.					
May	we all rea	alize with Dav	vid, "there is	s but a s	tep between	me and death."
Α			?			
Only	those wl	ho are truly p	repared to	die are p	repared to l	live.

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¹ http://ask.yahoo.com/20051128.html